

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1           1. (currently amended): A device for data communication between a first host  
2 device or a further host device and at least one client device on a shared transmission path  
3 having:

4                 [[ -     ]] a first host device (1), which includes a host application (11);  
5                 [[ -     ]] at least one further host device (2), which includes a host application  
6 (21);

7                 [[ -     ]] at least one client device (3, 4, 5, 6, 7), which includes a client  
8 application (34, 44, 54, 64, 74);

9                 wherein

10                [[ -     ]] a bus control module (8) is provided;  
11                the transmission path is implemented as a data bus representing a ring connector;  
12                [[ -     ]] the host devices (1,2) and the client device(s) (3, 4, 5, 6, 7), as well as  
13 the bus control module (8), being are connected to one another by the transmission path (9) data  
14 bus for exchanging data and/or signals with one another and  
15                [[ -     ]] the bus control module (8) being implemented to control the access of  
16 the host devices (1,2) to the transmission path (9) data bus.

1           2. (currently amended): The device according to Claim 1, wherein  
2                characterized in that  
3                the host applications of the first and/or the further host devices (1, 2), in particular  
4 the host application (11, 12), have a processor.

3. (canceled)

1           4. (currently amended): The device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
2 wherein the host devices (1, 2) each have a master application interface module (10, 20), which  
3 is linked in the transmission path ~~(9)~~.

1           5. (currently amended): The device according to Claim 4, wherein  
2 ~~characterized in that~~  
3 the host devices (1, 2) each have a master application module (14, 24), which  
4 connects the particular host application (11, 21) to the assigned master application interface  
5 module (10, 20).

1           6. (currently amended): The device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
2 wherein each client device (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) has a client application interface module (30, 40, 50, 60,  
3 70), which is linked in the transmission path (9) and is connected to the assigned client  
4 application (34, 44, 54, 64, 74).

1           7. (currently amended): A method of data communication between a first host  
2 device or a further host device and at least one client device on a shared transmission path  
3 implemented as a data bus representing a ring connection, having the following steps:

4           [[ -    ]] opening a communication connection between a host application  
5 running on the host device and a client application running on the client device;

6           [[ -    ]] transmitting arbitration information on the ~~transmission path~~ data bus  
7 along the opened communication connection, the arbitration information containing data, on the  
8 basis of which the ~~transmission path~~ data bus is reserved for a predetermined time interval or for  
9 a predetermined data volume for a subsequent data transmission on the ~~transmission path~~ data  
10 bus along the opened communication connection;

11                    [[-     ]] transmitting data and/or signals between the host application and the  
12 client application and/or between the client application in the host application on the  
13 ~~transmission path~~ data bus along the opened communication connection.

1                    8. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 7, wherein  
2                    ~~characterized in that~~  
3                    the arbitration information is transmitted as an arbitration block, an arbitration  
4 block having arbitration data which includes information about the length of the predetermined  
5 time interval or about the extent of the predetermined data volume for the subsequent data  
6 transmission.

1                    9. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 8, wherein  
2                    ~~characterized in that~~  
3                    the arbitration block has activity data which includes information about the  
4 current state of the transmission path, from which it may be concluded whether the transmission  
5 path is currently being used for data transmission.

1                    10. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 7, wherein  
2                    ~~characterized in that,~~  
3                    in the event of an access wish of a host application to the transmission path, the  
4 following steps are performed:  
5                    [[-     ]] the master application interface module assigned to the host application  
6 accepts the arbitration block present on the transmission path,  
7                    [[-     ]] reads out the activity data,  
8                    [[-     ]] checks, on the basis of the activity data, whether the transmission path is  
9 currently free for data transmission,  
10                    [[-     ]] writes, if the transmission path is free, activity data in the arbitration  
11 block which indicates use of the transmission path by the host application, and

12                    [[-     ]] transfers the arbitration block to the bus control module via the  
13 transmission path;

14                    [[-     ]] upon which the bus control module reserves the transmission path for  
15 the access by the host application.

1                    11. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 10, wherein  
2                    ~~characterized in that,~~  
3                    after termination of a data transmission, the activity data in the arbitration block is  
4 reset by the master application interface module and the transmission path is thus released again.